XXIII. *Characters of Platylobium, Bossiæa, and of a new Genus named Poiretia. By James Edward Smith, M.D. F.R.S. P.L.S.*

Read May 3, 1808.

Having lately had my attention recalled to the Papilionaceous plants of New Holland with 10 separate stamens, the result of which I have had the honour of laying before the Linnean Society, I have been induced to reconsider some of the same great natural order, from that country, with united or diadelphous filaments, particularly my own genus *Platylobium*, and one which has been improperly confounded with it, the *Bossiæa* of M. Ventenat. I have been the more immediately urged to take up the subject, because this very eminent French botanist, misled by the accounts of others, has supposed these genera to be one and the same, and has, in a letter to me, apologized, with his usual candour, for establishing a new genus apparently in competition with my *Platylobium*, for want, as he is pleased to say, of his having sufficient information on the subject. I was happy to take the first opportunity which the state of public affairs would allow me, of removing his doubts, and, as far as my judgment would go, of confirming the genus he had founded. The following essential characters will, I trust, keep the 2 genera in question, as well as a new one that I have to propose, perfectly distinct, and I shall subjoin definitions of every species of each with which I am acquainted. They are all brought from the neighbourhood of Port Jackson, New South Wales,

and

and have flowered in the gardens about London, except *Poiretia elliptica*, which comes from the other side of New Holland.

The genera in question belong to the 1st section of *Diadelphia Decandria* in Linnæus, "*staminibus omnibus connexis*," and to the 5th section of Jussieu's *Leguminosæ*.

1. PLATYLOBIUM. *Trans. of Linn. Soc. v.* 2. 350.

Calyx bilabiatus; labio superiore bifido, rotundato. *Legumen* pedicellatum, compresso-planum, membranaceum, dorso alatum, uniloculare, polyspermum.

1. P. *formosum*, foliis cordato-ovatis, germine piloso.
P. formosum. *Bot. of N. Holl.* 17. *t.* 6. *Curt. Mag. t.* 469. *Ventenat Malmais. t.* 31.

This shrub has been so fully described, especially in the 2d volume of our Transactions, that I have nothing new to add, except an improvement of the character of the calyx, which is truly 2-lipped.

2. P. *parviflorum*, foliis lanceolato-ovatis, germine glabro. *Bot. of N. Holl.* 18.

This species flowered at Messrs. Grimwood's, Kensington, in 1799, and in several other gardens since, but I know not that it has been figured.

2. BOSSIÆA. *Ventenat Jard. de Cels*, 7.

Calyx bilabiatus; labio superiore bifido, retuso. *Legumen* pedicellatum, compressum, margine utroque incrassatum, intùs spongiosum, multiloculare, polyspermum.

1. B. *heterophylla*, ramis compressis, foliis ellipticis linearibusque.

B. hetero-

B. heterophylla. *Vent. Jard. de Cels, t.* 7. *Willd. Sp. Pl. v.* 3. 972. *Dryand. in Ann. of Bot. v.* 2. 526.
Platylobium lanceolatum. *Andr. Repos. t.* 205.

The almost woody texture of the legume; its two incrassated margins, without the dilatation of the upper edge characteristic of *Platylobium;* and its being separated by its spongy internal structure into as many cells as there are seeds, are surely sufficient characters for this genus, which is moreover very distinct in habit from *Platylobium.* The present species has often been fully described; the following are less known.

2. B. *scolopendria*, ramis compressis alatis dentatis denudatis, foliis ovato-ellipticis.
Platylobium scolopendrum. *Andr. Repos. t.* 191.
P. scolopendrium. *Vent. Malmais. t.* 55.

Very remarkable for its winged branches, justly compared by Ventenat to those of *Cactus Phyllanthus*, though of smaller dimensions. The leaves are few, and soon fall off; their form is rather more ovate than elliptical.

3. B. *ovata*, ramis teretibus, foliis elliptico-ovatis.
B. ovata. *Dryand. in Ann. of Bot. v.* 2. 526.
Platylobium ovatum. *Andr. Repos. t.* 266.

This has most resemblance to the first species in being, like that, very leafy, but the leaves are much more uniform, and the branches are all round. The edges of the leaves in my wild specimen are thickened, wavy, and somewhat crenate.

4. B. *microphylla*, ramis teretibus spinescentibus, foliis obcordato-cuneiformibus.
Platylobium microphyllum. *Sims in Curt. Mag. t.* 863.

Easily

Easily distinguished by its little, roundish, wedge-shaped, more or less obcordate, leaves, and the spinous terminations of its branches. The flowers in all the 4 species are orange beautifully variegated with crimson; the keel in this last is purple.

3. Poiretia.

Calyx bilabiatus; labio superiore bifido, retuso. *Legumen* sessile, sphæricum, inflatum, uniloculare, dispermum.

1. P. *linearis*, foliis linearibus revolutis.

This shrub, seeds and specimens of which have been sent from New South Wales, flowered in Mr. George Hibbert's rich collection at Clapham in 1798; but I am not aware that any figure or description of it has been published. It constitutes a very distinct new genus, allied to *Platylobium* and *Bossiæa*, but sufficiently different in habit, and essentially distinguished from them, as they are from each other, by the fruit. I wish to dedicate this genus to M. Poiret, the able continuator of the botanical part of the French *Encyclopedie* since it was given up by M. Lamarck. I have the more pleasure in doing this justice to M. Poiret's merits, because the plant which the late Abbé Cavanilles named *Poiretia* in 1797, had, unknown to either of these gentlemen, been published by me in the Stockholm Transactions, three years before, as *Sprengelia*, and I was therefore the innocent cause of a disappointment to both.

This species of *Poiretia*, on which I have founded the genus, is a rather slender shrub, with alternate, round, leafy branches, clothed in their younger and upper parts with short dense silky hairs. Leaves alternate, on short, thick, hairy footstalks; spreading, 2 or 3 inches long, linear, narrow, obtuse with a small point, somewhat revolute, obsoletely crenate; smooth above; paler, often

often hairy and rusty-coloured, with a prominent rib, beneath; reticulated on both sides with innumerable minute veins. Stipulas small, linear-lanceolate, recurved, rigid, smooth. Flowers rather small, on short, simple, axillary, hairy stalks, either solitary or in pairs, with 2 or more small lanceolate bracteas. Calyx densely clothed externally with brown and white silky hairs, in the manner of some *Astragali*, 2-lipped, permanent; the upper lip largest, spreading upwards, extremely abrupt, cloven; lower of 3 equal lanceolate segments. Corolla longer than the calyx, variegated with lilac and violet. Stamens 10, all united into a tube cloven to the very base at its upper side, and permanent under the ripe fruit. Germen roundish, smooth. Style awl-shaped, ascending, hairy at the base only. Stigma obtuse. Legume sessile, naked, minutely furrowed and striated, of a shining brown, cartilaginous, globose, or very slightly compressed, about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in diameter, tipped with a minute oblique point, inflated, of one cell. Seeds 2, roundish, smooth, variegated, 1 affixed to each valve at the upper suture, and accompanied, as in the two preceding genera, by a white oblong appendage or *strophiolum*.

2. P. *elliptica*, foliis elliptico-oblongis.

This is known to me merely by a specimen gathered by Mr. Menzies at King George's Sound, on the west coast of New Holland, which unluckily is not in fruit, but the whole habit, and all the parts of the flower, so precisely agree with the foregoing species, that I have no doubt of the genus of the present plant. The branches are round, alternate, leafy, silky when young. Leaves about an inch and half long, alternate, on short downy stalks; more or less accurately elliptical, flat, entire, or very obscurely crenate, emarginate with a diminutive point;

smooth and shining above; opaque and minutely hairy beneath, with a strong mid-rib; reticulated on both sides with numerous veins. Stipulas very small, lanceolate, erect. Flower-stalks about the upper parts of the branches, half an inch or more in length, axillary, generally in pairs from one common, short, bracteated base, and each bearing one purplish flower, with a pair of very small bracteas at the base of its calyx. The flower-stalks, bracteas and calyx are clothed with silky rusty hairs; the upper lip of the latter is very broad, the segments of the lower lip short. Stamens as in the former species. Germen roundish, smooth. Stigma obtuse.

Norwich, March 30, 1808.

XXIV. *Musci*